

# VOLUNTEER NEWS



*As the New Year begins, we say*  
***THANK YOU FOR  
AN AMAZING YEAR!***



In 2017, approximately  
**7000 VOLUNTEERS**  
have generously given more than  
**45,000 hours**



during Park projects, events, sports and recreation programs!

All of this time has added approximately  
**\$1,080,000** in value to YOUR Park & Recreation Department!!!

*We couldn't do what we do without YOU... **THANK YOU!***

**WATCH FOR A NEW SEASON OF PROJECTS AND EVENTS, COMING SOON!**

- LATE WINTER & SPRING SPORTS**
- SENIOR GAMES & SILVER ARTS**



## FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL



**LOCATION: LATTA PLANTATION NATURE PRESERVE**

- 5226 Sample Road, Huntersville, 28078

**DATE OF EVENT:** Saturday, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

**TIME OF EVENT:** 10:00am-4:00pm

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

2 shifts: 9:00AM-1:00PM or 1:00PM-5:00PM

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 100**

Come and help with this HUGE annual family festival at Latta Plantation Nature Center! Activities include: a fairy house building contest, fairy-themed crafts and games, geocaching, nature hikes, storytelling and more!

Volunteers will assist with a variety of stations, including but not limited to: crafts, games, registration, hikes, directing parking, assisting with shuttles, preparing free popcorn, tending fire pits, etc.

Please dress for the weather! Volunteers are welcome to dress up in fairy themed clothing that is family-friendly. Lunch will be provided for the MORNING shift only.

***\*Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to help with this event***

***Contact [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov) to sign up to help out!***



## SENIOR MARDI GRAS PARTY!

**LOCATION: ARBOR GLEN OUTREACH CENTER**

- 1520 Clanton Road, Charlotte, 28208

**DATE OF EVENT:** Tuesday, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

**TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** 9:00am-2:00pm

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 20**



Celebrate "Fat Tuesday" at the Mardi Gras Party for seniors, with food, masks, beads and music!

**Volunteers** will assist with decorating, set-up and clean-up, serving food, and assisting seniors with games and Mardi Gras themed activities. Volunteers are welcome to dress in festive attire, but please wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Contact [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov) to sign up for any or all of the time between 9:00am and 2:00pm – at least 2 hours, please! Volunteers should be at least 18 years old.



### **Learning, Impacting and Teaching (L.I.T) Program for Youth and Teens**

LOCATION: WEST CHARLOTTE RECREATION CENTER

- 2401 Kendall Drive, Charlotte, 28216

PROGRAM BEGINS: Tuesday, JANUARY 16, 2018

- Monday-Thursday, 3:30PM – 6:30PM each day

**\*THIS IS AN ONGOING OPPORTUNITY!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 1-3 hours each date, set schedule with staff

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2-3 per day

**Volunteers are needed to help with:**

Assisting youth and teens with homework in various subjects. This is a great opportunity to set a positive example for students!



***Volunteers must be at least 18 years old for this ongoing opportunity, and must join the Volunteer Program.***

***Please contact Volunteer Services to register as a volunteer:***

**[VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov)**

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)**

LOCATION: SHAMROCK SENIOR CENTER

- 3200 Shamrock Drive, 28215

**\*THIS IS AN ONGOING OPPORTUNITY!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2 to 3 hours per week

TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Varies, set schedule with Senior Center staff and patrons

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 4 to 5 per week

**Volunteers are needed to help with:**

Assisting refugees working on English as a Second Language (ESL) to help them earn their citizenship.



**\*NEW LOCATION** – Another ESL program is being formed at Naomi Drenan Recreation Center, 750 Beal Street, 28211 – WATCH THIS SPACE for more information!!\*

***Volunteers must be at least 18 years old for this ongoing opportunity, and must join the Volunteer Program. Please contact Volunteer Services to register as a volunteer:***

**[VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov)**





## CALLING ALL COACHES!

***Youth Basketball and Cheerleading seasons are in full swing...THANK YOU to the 150+ Volunteer Coaches who pitch in to make these programs the BEST!***

***We are already enrolling for LATE WINTER and SPRING SPORTS, including Indoor Soccer, Track & Field and Baseball!*** To volunteer as a coach, you must join our Volunteer Program - if you would like to join please contact Volunteer Services at: [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov)

As a Coach, you will need to be available for both Practices and Games. Most of the practices are during the week and the games are usually on Saturday. To check out where our centers are located go to [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com).

***\*If you already know which sport, center, and/or age group you want to Coach – or if you have already contacted staff at your preferred Center – please make sure to list this information on your application.***

### MORE COACH INFORMATION...

***Challenger Basketball*** is an adaptive sport program offered by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation Section. This basketball program is designed for youth and teens with disabilities. The season runs from January 8 through February 26. To help with this ***awesome*** adaptive sport program, please contact Volunteer Services at: [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov)

***\*You must be at least 18 years old to help with Adaptive Sports or other TR programs!\****

## MONTHLY THERAPEUTIC RECREATION DANCE!

LOCATION: MARION DIEHL REC. CENTER

- 2219 Tyvola Road, 28210

DATE OF EVENT: 3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY EACH MONTH

- January 19 – *"City Lights" Dance*

- February 23 – *Sweetheart Dance*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 5:00PM TO 9:30PM

TIME OF EVENT: 6:00PM – 9:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 3 TO 10

***The TR Dance*** is the place to be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month! Teens to adults with disabilities dance the night away at these FUN themed events. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up/tear down, serving food and drinks, and helping with crafts, games or other activities.

***\*Volunteers must be at least 18 years old***



## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: SENIOR CENTERS

**DID YOU KNOW?...**Two of our 3 Senior Centers are honored to carry the “Senior Center of Excellence” designation, awarded by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services! Both the Tyvola and Shamrock locations “provide exemplary services and opportunities to their communities and serve as mentors and models to developing centers.” (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov> )

Senior Centers provide individuals 55 years and older various opportunities to improve their physical and cognitive health, expand their support systems, and find services they need to remain independent.

**Exercise Opportunities:** Jazzercise Lite, Low- Impact Aerobics, Strength Training, Stretching Class, Tai Chi, Yoga, one-on-one exercise training, table tennis, line-dancing, Zumba Gold, walking club

**Health Programs:** Matter of Balance\*, Chronic Disease Self-Management\*, Diabetes Self-Management\*, Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi\*, Brain Fitness, Senior Nutrition Program, Tomando\*, Medication Education

\*Nationally recognized Health Promotion/Disease Prevention programs – for more information go to <http://www.centralina.org/>

**Education Programs:** Managing Your Finances during Retirement, Legal Documents for End of Life Peace of Mind, Staying in Your Home Longer, English Language Training, Downsizing,

**Services Offered:** Senior Health Insurance Information Program (Medicare counseling), Information & Assistance, balance assessment, exercise readiness assessment, income tax preparation, assistance with advance medical directives.

**Locations:** Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

### North Mecklenburg Senior Center

102 Gilead Road, Huntersville, NC Phone: 980-314-1127

### Shamrock Senior Center *(has relocated to Methodist Home Recreation Center)*

3200 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte NC Phone : 980-314-1123

### Tyvola Senior Center

2225 Tyvola Road, Charlotte NC Phone: 980-314-1320



There are many opportunities to Volunteer at our 3 excellent Senior Centers!  
Contact [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov) for more information!



## VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT TIPS

*We LOVE our Volunteers, and we want to make it EASY for you to come and help your community! Here are a few tips for you...THANK YOU for taking the time to support YOUR Park & Recreation Department!*

YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- For one-day events or projects
- For helping with a program ONE time (Example: chaperoning ONE field trip for an after-school program)

YOU **MUST** REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- To be a Coach for any sport
- To assist with an ongoing program on a regular basis (Example: tutoring once a week; teaching ESL)

*Please contact [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov) if you are not sure whether or not you need to enroll for a volunteer project, event or program. We are happy to assist you!*

### CONTACT US!

For more information on volunteering for any of our programs or projects, please contact:

Lori Saylor at 980-314-1045  
[Lori.Saylor@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Lori.Saylor@MeckNC.gov)

Karen Howard at 980-314-1046  
[Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov)

Janet Whitley at 980-314-1047  
[Janet.Whitley@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Janet.Whitley@MeckNC.gov)

Pamela Thomas at 980-314-1059  
[Pamela.Thomas@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Pamela.Thomas@MeckNC.gov)



PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years old.

*\*Volunteers working in the Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Section must be at least 18 years old.*

### ***Volunteer Services Program Mission Statement***

1. To assist Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department staff in providing services needed to offer quality recreation and leisure services to the community by:

- Supporting direct services provided by salaried department staff.
- Supplementing administrative, clerical, maintenance and other internal support service functions.

2. To provide the Citizens of Mecklenburg County opportunities for Citizen Involvement and to increase their awareness of the Department's Responsibilities, Services and Results.